

Appln. No. 09/994,353

Amendment dated February 17, 2005

Reply to Office Action mailed November 17, 2004

### REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 through 28 remain in this application. No claims have been cancelled or withdrawn, Claims 29 through 32 have been added.

The Examiner's rejections will be considered in the order of their occurrence in the Office Action.

#### Paragraphs 1 and 2 of the Office Action

The "provisional" double patenting rejection is acknowledged.

#### Paragraphs 3 through 14 of the Office Action

Claims 1, 2, 4 through 9, 11 through 16, 18 through 23 and 25 through 28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Chen et al. (US 2003/0028650 hereinafter Chen).

Claims 3, 10, 17 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chen in view of Wang et al. (US Patent No. 6,496,511 hereinafter Wang).

Initially, it noted that the Chen published patent application was filed less than one year (and actually about four months) prior to the filing date of the present application. As will be appreciated from the following, applicant believes that the claims of the present patent application are patentably distinguishable over the Chen publication. However, applicant reserves the option to swear behind the Chen publication should such an option be deemed desirable.

Claim 1 of the present application requires "analyzing if said selected feature requires a static IP address to be assigned to said at least one host". Claim 8 includes similar language. Somewhat similarly, claim 15 requires "means for analyzing if said selected feature requires a

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static IP address to be assigned to said at least one host". And claim 22 requires "logic capable of being executed by the processor, wherein said logic is capable of . . . analyzing if said feature selected by said user requires a static IP address to be assigned to said at least one host".

With respect to this particular requirement, the Office Action relies upon the description in the Chen application at paragraphs 79, 80 and 85. Paragraph 79 of the Chen application states (emphasis added):

Successful login using the web page of FIG. 7 advantageously causes the presentation of a main menu web page, illustratively of the form of the web page shown in FIG. 8. In FIG. 8, a menu including a list of available ISP (or other destination) selections is presented at the left, with scrolling available when the list exceeds the nominal list window size. Such menu entries will include ISPs to which users at clients on LAN 301 subscribe. Upon selection of a list entry, connection information associated with the selection conveniently appears to the right of the list window, in the area denominated NAME OF CONNECTION. Such connection information need not be a network address, but will be an appropriate logical specification of a connection sought to be made. In some cases, a name of an ISP will be appropriate to identify configuration information associated with the desired connection. Selecting the CONNECT screen button then effects the connection to the indicated ISP or other destination.

Thus, as can be appreciated from the above paragraph, once the user of the Chen system has chosen an ISP from a list, the user is then presented with a second list of "connection information associated with the selection" from which to choose. Turning to Figure 8 of the Chen application, which is referenced here, the second list clearly includes as two of the available choices . As the user is clearly presented with these two alternative choices in this list, it is clear to one of ordinary skill in the art that the Chen system requires the user to make the selection between the "FIXED-IP NETWORK" option and the "DHCP NETWORKS" option and the Chen system does not "analyz[e] if said selected feature requires a static IP address to be assigned to said at least one host" and "assign[] an IP address to said at least one host, wherein a static IP

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address is assigned to said at least one host if said selected feature requires said static IP address".

Looking to paragraph 80 of the Chen application, it is also clear from this portion of Chen that even if the desired connection destination is *not* listed in the first list presented to the user, the user chooses from the listing of types of connections, which includes the "Fixed IP address Network" option and the "DHCP Network" option discussed above (emphasis added):

When a connection to a destination not specified in the menu of the main menu web page of FIG. 8 is desired, provision is made in the web page of FIG. 8 to select links to another web page associated with connections in any of the illustrative categories of connections shown in FIG. 8 below the NAME OF CONNECTION field on that page. Specifically, Standard Dial-Up, Customized Dial-Up, Fixed IP address Network, DHCP Network and PPPoE Network connections are shown as available. In other contexts or applications of the present inventive teachings, other particular types of connections will, of course, be available for selection. Selection of one of the illustrative connection-type links in FIG. 8 causes a follow-up web page to be sent to the selecting client from GUI server 450 in FIG. 4. These and other web pages will be discussed below in connection with FIGS. 9-16

Paragraph 85 of the Chen application only further confirms that the user, and not the Chen system, is required to make the choice of the type of connection between options that includes the "FIXED-IP NETWORK" option and the "DHCP NETWORKS" option (emphasis added):

FIG. 11 is a web page that is illustratively displayed upon selecting the FIXED-IP NETWORK link from the main menu of FIG. 8 when the menu at the left of FIG. 8 fails to display a desired connection having a fixed IP address. As with the web pages of FIGS. 9 and 10, a name of a network connection is filled in and the other indicated information (ip\_address, mask\_address, and gateway) retrieved from a prior session or filled in by at the client device on LAN 301. Selecting the connect button again initiates the connection to the indicated address.

Thus, the user is presented with the screen of Figure 11 of Chen when the user chooses the "FIXED-IP NETWORK" option on the menu of FIG.

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8, such as in the event that the user is not able to select the desired connection with the fixed IP address, so that the user can manually enter the information associated with the fixed IP address. It is noted that paragraph 86 of Chen, a similar option is provided when the user chooses the "DHCP NETWORKS" option.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand that the user of the Chen system is required to choose the type of connection desired, and thus the Chen system does not "analyz[e] if said selected feature requires a static IP address to be assigned to said at least one host" and "assign[] an IP address to said at least one host, wherein a static IP address is assigned to said at least one host if said selected feature requires said static IP address", as required by the present claims. It is therefore submitted that the Chen application would not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to the applicant's claimed invention as defined in the independent claims 1, 8, 15, and 22, especially with the requirements set forth above, and therefore it is submitted that these claims are allowable over the prior art. Further, claims 2 through 7, 16 through 21, and 23 through 28, which depend from the independent claims, also include the requirements discussed above and therefore are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Withdrawal of the §102(b) and §103(a) rejections of claims 1 through 28 is therefore respectfully requested.

#### Added Claims

Added claim 29 requires "wherein said analyzing if said selected feature requires a static IP address is performed automatically", and added claim 30 requires "wherein said analyzing if said selected feature requires a static IP address is performed without user intervention". These requirements, which are supported in the disclosure of the present

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patent application at least at paragraph 23, are submitted to be completely foreign to the system described in the Chen publication.

Added claim 31 requires "wherein said list of available features includes blocking access to the Internet from said at least one host" and added claim 32 requires "wherein said list of available features includes designating said at least one host as a demilitarized zone (DMZ) host". These features are not described in the Chen publication, and are in fact quite strange to the options presented in the menus described in Chen.

Allowance of claims 29 through 32 is therefore also requested.

### CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, early reconsideration and allowance of this application are most courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 

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